



# Department of Housing and Community Development

## DHCD Update

Bill Shelton to the Virginia Housing Commission  
April 3, 2007

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## *Agency Mission*

The Department of Housing and Community Development works in partnership to make Virginia's communities safe, affordable, and prosperous places in which to live, work and do business.

## *What We Do*

DHCD takes a community development approach to collaborate with Virginia's communities to fully develop their economic potential and create a healthy, safe, and affordable living environment

## *Role in Housing*

- ❖ Expanding homeownership options.
- ❖ Addressing gaps in affordable housing.
- ❖ Decreasing the level of substandard housing.
- ❖ Building the capacity of not-for-profit housing developers.
- ❖ Intervening to prevent homelessness.
- ❖ Providing shelter and services to homeless individuals and families.



## *Role in Community and Economic Development*

- ❖ Revitalization of distressed areas.
- ❖ Support for community economic development.
- ❖ Fostering entrepreneurship.
- ❖ Development of community infrastructure.
- ❖ Building more livable communities.
- ❖ Building the capacity of community organizations.

## *Developments in Policy Environment*

- ❖ Economic Development Strategic Plan recognizes need for affordable workforce housing
- ❖ Urban Policy recognizes the critical role of housing in revitalization efforts and need for a State Housing Trust Fund
- ❖ Transportation legislation emphasizes the importance of coordinating land use and transportation
- ❖ Commonwealth continues efforts to address special needs housing

## *Developments in Housing*

- ❖ Budget conference report includes an additional \$2.5 million for indoor plumbing assistance and requested study of IPR program
- ❖ Livable Home Tax Credit (HB2498 and SB791) expanded to allow tax credits for new residential construction similar to existing home retrofit provisions
- ❖ No new funding for the Housing Partnership Fund (Governor had proposed \$2 million)
- ❖ Efforts to establish a State Housing Trust Fund (HB1825, SB966 and SB967) continue but have not passed
- ❖ Funding through federal programs stagnant or declining

## *Developments in Building and Fire Codes*

- Board of Housing and Community Development currently in process of updating state building and fire codes with expected effective date of March of 2008

- Limited number of building code related bills passed 2007 General Assembly

- HB2469 addresses civil penalties for building code violations
- HB2497 allows for an annual building permit to facilitate certain school construction activities
- HB2789 increases the potential penalties for violations relating to occupancy limits

- Other proposed legislation that failed to pass referred for consideration to the Housing Commission

- HB2297 – fire safety in high-rise elderly and assisted living facilities
- HB2554 – in-building emergency communication
- SB1077 – mandating carbon monoxide detectors in certain occupancies



## *Changes in Fire Prevention Code Enforcement*

- ❖ General Assembly approved legislation (HB2356 and SB1132) that directs the transfer of Virginia Fire Prevention Code inspection function of the State Fire Marshal from DHCD to Department of Fire Programs effective July 1, 2008
- ❖ Legislation approved by the General Assembly (H2048) prohibited the State Fire Marshal from charging a fee for inspection of schools operated by religious institutions



## *Developments in Community Development*

- ❖ Significant pro-ration of Enterprise Zone grants in 2006 addressed through legislation (HB2417 and SB1057) and \$2.0 million annual appropriation
- ❖ Efforts to extend broadband to the Eastern Shore, Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula received increased funding support of \$1.6 million
- ❖ Budget conference report directs transfer of \$17.0 million in funding from the Water Quality Improvement Fund for addressing discharges of untreated or under-treated household waste into the non-Chesapeake Bay streams and groundwater